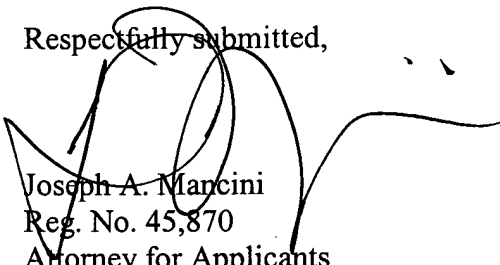


**Remarks**

1. By way of this amendment, the title of the invention has been changed to reflect the election of the apparatus recited in elected claims 1-16 and the non-election of the method recited in withdrawn claims 17-22.
2. By way of this amendment, the abstract has been changed to make it compliant with Examiner's requirements per MPEP §608.01(b).
3. By way of this amendment, independent claim 1 now recites the entire limitation found in original claim 2, thereby making claim 1 patentably distinct over reference U.S. Patent 3,167,278 to Roberge which discloses only a boom, weapons mount and weapons platform. With the additional limitation of "...means for providing aerodynamic lift to said boom...", applicant successfully traverses Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Accordingly, originally presented claim 2 has been cancelled.
4. Claims 3,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 14 and 15 have been amended only insofar as to correctly reference the claim they depend from.
5. Claims 17-22 have been withdrawn from this application as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Applicant retains the right to present claims 17-22 in a divisional application.
6. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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